

## Listing of the Claims

Please amend the claims according to the following listing of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) Feeder device for bars, for picking up and removing, in a pick up and remove cycle, selectively from a bundle at least one bar to arrange the at least one bar for use in an operating machine, the device comprising:

a first magnetic means comprising a first magnetic element and a first actuator, the first magnetic element selected from the group consisting of a first permanent magnet and a first electromagnet, the first actuator for moving the first magnetic element, the first magnetic element being functionally attached to the first actuator, the first magnetic means for separating from said bundle at least an end segment of a plurality of bars and arranging at least the end ~~segments~~ segment of said plurality of bars on a plane distanced with respect to said bundle,

wherein the first magnetic element is moveable by the first actuator at least in a first step of the pick-up and removal cycle and at least for a part of the movement, in a first substantially vertical operating direction substantially orthogonal to a plane on which the bundle of bars lies to raise the end segment of the plurality of bars with respect to the bundle, and

a second magnetic means comprising a second magnetic element and a second actuator, the first magnetic element selected from the group consisting of a second permanent magnet and a second electromagnet, the second actuator for moving the second magnetic element, the second magnetic element being functionally attached to the second actuator, the second magnetic means for picking up, from said first magnetic means, at least one bar at a time from said plurality of bars and to unload said at least one bar in a desired release position,

wherein said second magnetic element is moveable by said second actuator at least in a second step of the pick-up and removal cycle, in a second operating direction parallel (23), curved (123) or slant-wise with respect to said bars supported by said first magnetic element to pick up from the first magnetic element said at least one bar and to displace said at least one bar towards the desired release position.

2. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1,  
wherein said first ~~magnetic means is moveable at least in a first step of the pick-up and removal cycle and at least for a part of their movement, in a first operating direction substantially orthogonal to a plane on which said bundle of bars lies to raise the end segments of said plurality of bars with respect to said bundle~~ actuator is selected from a member of the group consisting of:

(A1) a first vertically moveable linear actuator (15);

(B1) a first linear actuator attached to a first end of a first arm selected from the group consisting of first shaped arm (31) and a curved arm (31), the first arm having a second end attached to the first magnetic element, and

wherein the first substantially vertical operating direction substantially orthogonal to the plane on which said bundle of bars lies to raise the end segments of said plurality of bars with respect to said bundle is vertical, curved or slantwise; and

wherein said second actuator is selected from a member of the group consisting of:

(A2) a second horizontally moveable linear actuator (23) for moving in the second operating direction parallel (23) with respect to said bars, and

(B2) a rotary arm (123) for moving in the second operating direction curved (123) with respect to said bars.

3. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein said first actuator comprises a first vertically moveable linear actuator (15) and said second actuator comprises a second horizontally moveable linear actuator (23) ~~magnetic means is moveable at least in a second step of the pick-up and removal cycle, in a second operating direction parallel, curved or slant-wise with respect to said bars supported by said first magnetic means to pick up therefrom one or more bars and to displace them towards said desired release position.~~

4. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein said second magnetic-means has a first advanced pick-up position, wherein the second magnetic means cooperates with said first magnetic means to pick up therefrom said at least one

bar, and wherein the second magnetic means has a second retracted release position, and wherein the feeder device further comprises a stop element arranged along the return travel of said second magnetic means to determine the fall of said at least one bar from the second retracted release position.

5. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 4, wherein said stop element has an at least partly curved conformation to determine a progressive detachment of said at least one bar from said second magnetic means.

6. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 4, wherein a guide slide is located relative to said stop element to guide said at least one bar after it has been detached from said second magnetic means.

7. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 4, wherein in said second release position said second magnetic means is arranged substantially in correspondence with a drawing assembly of said operating machine, into which said at least one bar is able to be unloaded.

8. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 7, further comprising means for correcting positioning defects of said one or more bars with respect to said drawing assembly at the second release position, wherein the means for correcting is selectively activatable.

9. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 8, wherein said means for correcting comprises a pair of rollers having a first reciprocally distanced inactive position and a second operating position wherein the pair of rollers are closed on said at least one bar.

10. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 1, wherein in cooperation with the leading ends of said bars, there is a header element for being selectively activated at least when a plurality of bars have been picked up by said first magnetic means, are raised with respect to said bundle and are arranged substantially on a single plane.

11. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein said first magnetic ~~means comprises a magnetic~~ element ~~[[with]]~~ has a size, in a direction transverse to the longitudinal development of the bars, at least equal to the width of said bundle.

12. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 11, wherein said first magnetic element is mounted on the first actuator comprising a relative supporting arm by an

articulated connection.

13. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first magnetic means and the second magnetic means comprise [[an]] said electromagnet.

14. (Currently Amended) Device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first magnetic means and second magnetic means comprise [[a]] said permanent magnet.

15. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 1, wherein said second magnetic means has a detector to detect the second magnetic means is returning from attempting to pick up at least one said bar from the first magnetic means without at least one said bar due to the absence of bars on said first magnetic means and to give consent for a new pick-up cycle by said first magnetic-means.

16. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 1, wherein said bars are arranged in a plurality of housing seatings each one housing bars of different sizes, said housing seatings being reciprocally and selectively movable with respect to said first magnetic-means to allow the sequential pick-up of bars even of different sizes.

17. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 1, wherein the first magnetic means and the second magnetic means are mounted on a movable support for moving in correspondence with the zone where there is said bundle from which said bars are to be picked up.

18. (Currently Amended) Method to feed bars, used to pick up and selectively remove, in a pick up and remove cycle, from a bundle at least one bar to arrange the at least one bar for use in an operating machine, comprising the steps of:

bringing a first magnetic element of a first magnetic means near said bundle to magnetically attract an end segment of a plurality of bars and distance the plurality of bars from said bundle,

the first magnetic means comprising the first magnetic element and a first actuator, the first magnetic element selected from the group consisting of a first permanent magnet and a first electromagnet, the first magnetic element being functionally attached to the first actuator,

wherein the first actuator moves the first magnetic element at least in a first step of the pick-up and removal cycle wherein, at least a part of the movement is in a first substantially vertical operating direction substantially orthogonal to a plane on which the

bundle of bars lies to raise the end segment of the plurality of bars with respect to the bundle, and

bringing a second magnetic element of a second magnetic means near said first magnetic means element to pick up from the first magnetic means element at least one of said plurality of bars, and [[are]] then the second magnetic element with the at least one of said plurality of bars is distanced from the first magnetic means element to arrange said at least one bar in a desired release position,

the second magnetic means comprising the second magnetic element and a second actuator, the first magnetic element selected from the group consisting of a second permanent magnet and a second electromagnet, the second magnetic element being functionally attached to the second actuator,

wherein the second actuator moves the second magnetic element at least in a second step of the pick-up and removal cycle, in a second operating direction parallel, curved or slant-wise with respect to the bars supported by the first magnetic element to pick up from the first magnetic element said at least one bar and to displace the picked up at least one bar towards the desired release position.

19. (Previously Presented) Method as in claim 18, wherein said second magnetic means is moved from a first advanced pick-up position cooperating with said first magnetic means to pick up said at least one bar to a second retracted release position wherein said second magnetic means cooperates with a drawing assembly of said operating machine to release said at least one bar into said drawing assembly.

20. (Previously Presented) Method as in claim 18, wherein between said distancing the plurality of bars from the bundle by the first magnetic means and said picking up at least one bar by the second magnetic means, the method further comprises moving a header element against respective ends of the bars of the plurality of bars to make the longitudinal positioning of said plurality of bars equal.

21. (Previously Presented) Method as in claim 18, wherein after the release of said at least one bar by the second magnetic means, the method further comprises correcting possible defects in the positioning of said bars inside said drawing assembly.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) Device as in claim 1, wherein said second magnetic means has a direction of movement substantially perpendicular to a lowering and lifting direction of movement of the first magnetic means, to pick up one bar at a time from the first magnetic means and move the picked-up bar towards a discharge and operating position.

25. (Previously Presented) Method as in claim 18, wherein said second magnetic means has a direction of movement substantially perpendicular to a lowering and lifting direction of movement of the first magnetic means, to pick up one bar at a time from the first magnetic means and move the picked-up bar towards a discharge and operating position.

26 (New) Feeder device for bars, for picking up and removing, in a pick up and remove cycle, selectively from a bundle at least one bar to arrange the at least one bar for use in an operating machine, the device comprising:

a first magnetic means for separating from said bundle at least an end segment of a plurality of bars and arranging at least the end segments of said plurality of bars on a plane distanced with respect to said bundle, and

a second magnetic means for picking up, from said first magnetic-means, at least one bar at a time from said plurality of bars and to unload said at least one bar in a desired release position,

wherein said second magnetic-means is moveable at least in a second step of the pick-up and removal cycle, in a second operating direction parallel, curved or slant-wise with respect to said bars supported by said first magnetic means to pick up therefrom one or more bars and to displace them towards said desired release position,

wherein said second magnetic-means has a first advanced pick-up position, wherein the second magnetic means cooperates with said first magnetic means to pick up therefrom said at least one bar, and wherein the second magnetic means has a second retracted release position, and wherein the feeder device further comprises a stop element arranged along the return travel of said second magnetic means to determine the fall of said at least one bar from the second retracted release position,

wherein a guide slide is located relative to said stop element to guide said at least

one bar after it has been detached from said second magnetic means.

27 (New) Feeder device for bars, for picking up and removing, in a pick up and remove cycle, selectively from a bundle at least one bar to arrange the at least one bar for use in an operating machine, the device comprising:

a first magnetic means for separating from said bundle at least an end segment of a plurality of bars and arranging at least the end segments of said plurality of bars on a plane distanced with respect to said bundle, and

a second magnetic means for picking up, from said first magnetic-means, at least one bar at a time from said plurality of bars and to unload said at least one bar in a desired release position,

wherein said second magnetic-means is moveable at least in a second step of the pick-up and removal cycle, in a second operating direction parallel, curved or slant-wise with respect to said bars supported by said first magnetic means to pick up therefrom one or more bars and to displace them towards said desired release position,

wherein said second magnetic-means has a first advanced pick-up position, wherein the second magnetic means cooperates with said first magnetic means to pick up therefrom said at least one bar, and wherein the second magnetic means has a second retracted release position, and wherein the feeder device further comprises a stop element arranged along the return travel of said second magnetic means to determine the fall of said at least one bar from the second retracted release position,

wherein in said second release position said second magnetic means is arranged substantially in correspondence with a drawing assembly of said operating machine, into which said at least one bar is able to be unloaded,

further comprising means for correcting positioning defects of said one or more bars with respect to said drawing assembly at the second release position, wherein the means for correcting is selectively activatable,

wherein said means for correcting comprises a pair of rollers having a first reciprocally distanced inactive position and a second operating position wherein the pair of rollers are closed on said at least one bar.